

MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

JULY 26 2004

THE ETHICS OF HARD-SELL ADOPTION

Some 26,000 Canadian kids need homes. Does aggressive marketing—Web sites, videos—dehumanize them or just help find families? **BY SUE FERGUSON**

Nathaniel, 5:
a New Brunswick
campaign found him
new parents

\$4.95

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78624 70001



How to light up a supply chain

Advance Transformer, a leading component manufacturer for lighting systems, had legacy IT systems that no longer kept up with production demands. They turned to HP to help them better manage their supply chain. Now, with a unified management of the whole infrastructure, their systems automatically solve problems as they occur. All this has reduced production time from 20 to 5 days, cut inventory levels by 50%, and revealed the bright side of change. www.hp.ca/adapt

Solutions for the adaptive enterprise.

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'Heck, wrestling champ Eddie Guerrero has more credibility than most politicians, and his motto is "lie, cheat and steal to win."'
—Steven Thompson, London, Ont.

A campaign to end all campaigns

Not only was the campaign busy, as your cover story, it also resulted in the lowest voter turnout in recent memory ("The inside story of Canada's nastiest campaign," *Enquirer* 2004, July 12). I am 67 years old and always believed this unless I voted, I didn't have reason to complain. My children and friends would say, "What difference does it make? The politicians only care about you at election time and once elected they do as they please." I have replied that our forefathers sacrificed their lives for democracy, and we have not only the right to vote, but also the duty. Unfortunately, in this election I began to have my doubts. Scandal after scandal, government waste after waste, money and documented corruption had merely annoyed Mr. Martin. Canadians have sent you a clear message: restore our confidence in government. Show us true leadership and keep your promises.

Paul Murphy, Kempe, Ind.

The 2004 election may have been busy, but it certainly wasn't the nastiest. Third-party election belongs to the 1917 conscription election, in which the Toronto Star referred to Quebec as "The foul blot on Canada" and ran a map of Canada with Quebec blacked out. Headline writers at Maclean's may well want to head back to their history books.

J.D. M. Stewart, Toronto

I am one of those people who were delighted with the perplexed expressions on our neighbours' faces when the election results failed to match their prognostications. How could that happen? Probably because they relied more to each other than to the politicians in general.

Brighton, Ontario, 11, 2004

In your July 19 issue, letter writer Andrew Douglas of Chula Vista, Calif., wrote "I really have only one concern about the Liberal victory—what in the world do these people have to do to get themselves thrown out of power?" ("Letter reaction, The Mail") Answer: they do what Mike Harris's Conservatives



did in Ontario: Cancel school programs, serve public transportation, use money on health inspectors and let people die from contaminated water. Then leave the province with a \$5 billion deficit.

Wesley Desrosiers, Toronto

Olympic hubbub

It seems it has become mandatory for Olympic hopefuls to beg for money to aid their pursuit of glory ("Last gasp for glory," *Enquirer*, July 12). Where, oh where, are those 100 days when competition funded their own expense? Now, because of its money and generous (mostly tax deductible) funding by businesses, dozens of hopefuls travel to the Olympics as though it were an

old-fashioned church outing. Why not send only those who have a reasonable chance—those who have barely managed to equal the last Olympic standards? It was a far, far better competition in the days when most of the competitors were paid amateurs.

Ray Anderson, Mount Brydges, Ont.

Slobs are people too

I was horrified to read your Marlon Brando obituary ("The unworldly presence of Marlon Brando," *Enquirer*, July 12) with the shocking reference to the unique Brando, one of the most charismatic, accomplished, archetypal actors of modern times, as a "slob" friend, who brought dramatic dignity to human pain, deserves better.

Brian MacInnes, Winnipeg

Our global hero

Not only in Canada does the name of Terry Fox move people and promote goodwill ("Canada's true hero," *Enquirer*, July 1). Earlier this year in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, we ran our 30th annual Terry Fox Run. Most of the 2,500 participants and volunteers were not Canadian but drawn from the 150 or more nationalities that made in this desert state. We are part of a network of international Terry Fox runs that take place every year at more than 3,000 sites in 90 countries. Terry's smother since asked him why he couldn't just do his run in British Columbia. Terry's answer was, "Because not only people in B.C. get cancer." The story of Terry Fox and the ongoing work of the Terry Fox Foundation continues to inspire people around the world. Terry Fox was a true hero, but not just Canada's.

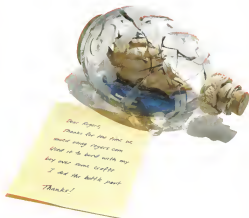
July 16, 2004, Dubai, UAE

Even though Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope halted midway along Canada's enormous expanse, his hope for miracles from cancer research lives on in personal and shared battles with this relentless disease. Whenever I tell the Terry Fox story to someone who is either fighting cancer or deeply concerned for a loved one so stricken, I can sense their hope growing. The fact that Terry Fox died 14 months after he turned his run into a life to dispense the spirit thing impression of what he did during those 14 months.

Frederic MacDonnell, Markham, Ont.

Credit where credit's due

Please give the citizens of South Sea, Marle, Ont., more credit. It's quietly one of the



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Your World Right Now

to the intellectual capacity of our editors to pass off the sarcasm and quotes in "A steel city's blues" as that of typical Saskitons (Ten last years, June 21). Have we faced serious economic challenges over the past decade, and do we still have significant challenges ahead of us? You bet your booties. However, after losing about 9,000 jobs at Algoma Steel in the past 10 to 12 years, we have fought back with the support of both the provincial and federal governments by attracting new and vibrant businesses. These initiatives have added 3,000 new jobs in the past decade. I would not want to live anywhere else and I know I feel the same in terms of thousands of others in our community. What Sask! Ste. Mine may lack in size, it makes up for in pure spirit.

Don Mitchell, president

Swift Ste. Mine Chamber of Commerce

Thanks for your article about South Sea Marley's "sackdown blues." Despite the angry howls of protest you might receive from Saskitons who continue to live in a state of denial about this community's future prospects, I want you to know that your article was bang on as its representation of the Soe's economic decline. That decline is truly an unfortunate, because the city really does still, as so much potential. But that potential will, in my view, only be unleashed once the falling marriage between Algoma Steel and this community is permanently mended.

Dena Pecorella, South Sea Mine, Ont.

Warriors wear clothes

I just read Brian Bethune's article on director Jerry Bruckheimer's new *King Arthur* movie ("A king for all seasons," Legends, July 12) and I have only one question: Does Mr. Bethune (or Mr. Bruckheimer for that matter) really believe that female empowerment and "scarily did warrior-like" go together? I don't know about the rest of the female population, but personally I'm rather unimpressed.

Alize Williams, Toronto

Readers vs. readers

Larger writer Ian Stewart asks us to "Please identify a situation in which an army has been successful in enforcing violence on others" ("Warriors," The Mail, June 21).



A scarily clad Queensrÿche Army's old member

Here goes: After the Second World War, the Western Allied forces (and that included Canada) occupied defeated Germany, strung up its more egregious leaders and imposed social democracy on West Germany. The United States military did the same in Japan. **Stanley Sandler, Spring Lake, N.C.**

Dennis Hatten may know something about Tampa Bay hockey, but her letter saying Calgary Flames fans are not losers seriously undermines the notion that few Americans will ever understand the mentality of the Canadian hockey fan ("Rage in rich men," The Mail, July 12). Most of us don't have time to dwell on the current where-beers of the Stanley Cup. We do have time to even think about the hockey team that carried it. Rather we're still too busy basking in the afterglow being stored upon us by the Calgary Flames: a hard-working, dedicated team that gave us the excitement of a playoff run like no other in recent NHL history, and brought together a city of one million in a way that no other event ever has or ever will. **Soni**

grapes? Hardly. Only heartfelt gratitude to having had the opportunity to be a part of it. **Cathy Towner, Calgary**

Return of the Samaritan
Deena Cooper's story about "The kindness of strangers" brought to mind a similar experience I had recently in England (Over to You, July 12). My wife and I travelled by train from London to Purley in Surrey upon arriving. I went to the telephone booth outside the station to call my friend for directions to his house. I had placed my address book on the counter inside and, forgetfully, left it behind. The next day I realized what I had done and rushed back to the booth. My address book was not there, nor had it been handed over to the railway authorities. Disappointed, I resigned myself to my loss. Imagine my surprise when, two days later, I found it in my friend's mailbox. Someone had found it, must have seen that it was addressed to the page containing my friend's address and taken the trouble to bring it eight kilometers to his home. We have not been able to trace this good Samaritan to thank him or her, but it has greatly renewed my faith in what a kind and thoughtful human being can do for another.

Deena Cooper, Calgary

Home is where the coast starts
Just a quick note to say how much I enjoyed your Canada Day issue and its various articles on Canada by Canadians. However, in the "Home Sweet Home" section, the essay by astronaut Julie Payette was a bit unimpressive (Canadiana, July 1). I realize that Julie Payette was very intelligent; however, with many degrees to her credit. However, I would like to point out that when one crosses the country from coast to coast it "about nine minutes" from space, the path would take the traveller from St. John's, Nfld., to Vancouver and not from Halifax to Vancouver. Canada does not begin at Halifax as some people on the mainland would like to believe. And this in the same section with an essay by Newfoundland Mary Walsh. **Paul Jackson, St. John's, Nfld.**



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MACLEAN'S



MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



CHEER UP! MACLEANS.CA

"Whether you're a pop culture vulture, a political junkie, a sports enthusiast or health devotee, you'll be entertained and informed by logging on to *Macleans.ca*," says Derek Chevit, *Maclean's* online editor.

As well, the online photo galleries that have been running on *Macleans.ca* for years remain a favourite for surfers. The latest updates include the Cannes Film Festival and the MuchMusic video awards (the above photo of Canadian pop princess Avril Lavigne, centre, with her brother and sister, is featured in that gallery).

Fans of back-page columnist Paul Wells are also logging on to *Macleans.ca*. In increasing numbers, making his weblogs, "idiot's Writings," one of the most popular features on the Web site. Throughout the recent federal election campaign, surfers had the opportunity to answer online poll questions on various political topics, and readers were offered expanded coverage beyond the context of the regular magazine. It's not too late to have a look at election result maps, *Macleans.ca* exclusive election photo galleries and other post-election analysis.

In co-operation with the *Medical Post*, *Macleans.ca* now offers readers daily health news. By clicking on the Health button located in the Features box on every page of the *Maclean's* site, surfers can get information on the latest medical discoveries or have a look at *Maclean's* health articles from the magazine that they may have missed.

In the weeks leading up to next month's Olympics, sports fans can visit *Macleans.ca* for special coverage of the Games. The site currently features a photo gallery on minor league baseball shot by *Maclean's* chief photographer Peter Bragg.

Says Chevit: "*Macleans.ca* offers a nice complement to the magazine so readers should log on and check it out."

And by visiting www.macleans.ca or readers can help shape the future of the Web site and magazine by joining the *Maclean's* Advisory Panel to give their feedback.

For further information about this article, contact behindthescenes@macleans.ca.

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC IS ON



ON DEMAND

UPFRONT

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ScoreCard



RALPH KLEIN
Gay before King
Klein, 55, is a former
Alberta deputy premier,
wicked humourist,
causing widespread
havoc throughout
the region. Think
Mother Nature is an
Eastern standard with
some of humour?



JOSE THEODORE
Hells, he's got his good
work. \$25.54 million
offer to play in
Russia in event of
NHL lockout, and
watches Alibi Police
the venerable blood-
sucked fish that
tried to track
Theodore's extended
criminal family
among others
become fish food.



OFFICE POINT
Ontario forced to re-
hire six bureaucrats
sacked for creating
video games around
the office. Firing too
harsh, earlier rules
job with newspaper,
though, may be too
soft a landing.



FERRY LANE
In a space even
Antarctica doesn't
have, a holiday
that buys
surface at a flea
market in Australia
and ends vintage
boards photos and
its hours of em-
bedded recordings
said to be John and
Paul experimenting
Mystery (but may
come from an
ex-wife and could
be worth a bundle.
Here comes the sun,
all right.



Nature | Global drenching

Summer monsoons coupled with melting snow from the Himalayas drove at least five million people from their homes in South Asia, leaving 400 dead in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Mother Nature was in an uproar there, too. Terrestrial rain flooded cities in China,

northern Japan and New Jersey, the latter reporting its worst flooding in a century. In Canada, Edmonton started the week with a fierce hailstorm that toppled mountains in thigh-deep banks of frozen pellets and then moved east to smother Peterborough, Ont., and Tiramisung. Que. Peterborough saw nearly 100 mm of rain fall in a three-hour period, destroying roads and turning 650 basements into swimming pools.

Quote of the week | 'In your lifetime you have killed more people than the Canadian military in the Gulf War.'

Angel hit man Yves (Agathe) Trépan, on parole as an informant, to put her child molestation. He has killed 43 people.

Mansbridge on the Record



MY SUMMERTIME NOTES

Why Larry Campbell isn't in Athens—and how Peter Jennings affected me

SOME ITEMS FROM MY NOTEBOOK:

■ I was passing through the Vancouver airport the other day and noticed a large plastic container filled with antiscissors at the security screening section. Do people tell you not to fly? I wondered, when a contraband that is allowed to take on board an aircraft? Apparently not. One of the guards working the area—and this was just the section for domestic flights—told the average daily take rate at 113 pairs of scissors. Where do they end up after confiscation? Charities, agencies. Seems like time to throw in scissors week.

■ You have to hand it to Michael Moore. He's named the piece of free documentary more than a film yet it's also very profitable. *Anderson 9/11* cost \$US 6 million to make and is a screaming hit off the office shelves of US\$100 million. It's also become a weapon against George W. Bush in an election year by raising questions that conventional journalism hasn't touched upon in the past 161 days Moore has become an action hero, but I don't dare watch it will benefit more from that. Democrats love Moore's words and antics, but they should be careful. Back in January, Wesley Clark got buried by getting one close to Moore during the primaries, when the Democratic candidate for the presidential nomination stood nearby on stage as Mansbridge took a "decision." There is no official evidence to support that charge, and it took Clark days to distance himself. It's a public man, miscalculable, seems to be unafraid by the *Anderson 9/11* factory instead of getting defensive.

“

At Vancouver airport, one guard told 113 pairs of scissors from travellers every day. They're given to charity agencies.

they're looking for new outside-the-box ways to go after the KarryTwards. Drama, crime, comedy. And you thought our campaign was nasty.

■ Vancouver's popular Mayor Larry Campbell loves to talk about how his city is besting the 2010 Olympics. But there are serious in how far he'll go to promote the occasion. He was scheduled to attend the Athens Games next month—but cancelled, saying the recent power blackout in the Greek capital, a city plagued by pre-Games problems (page 36)—was the last straw. Charming with her as a charity golf event, I informed that it was only a three-hour blackout, "in which he responded, "Yes, but in 10-degree heat." But, I said, if there are pre-Games problems in his city a few years, won't he expect an understanding? "There won't be any," was the very confident reply. Bookmark that one. By the way, B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell will go to Athens.

■ Finally, a word of explanation to those who cannot say yes to the English language. Grammar was not my strong suit [his accent would be an easy excuse if the editors at Macleod's who "publish" these little rascals would say laughably, but I've always had a good excuse in my misadventures, my teacher, Miss Bruce, used things difficult. She was a great teacher, but she was also very attractive, and some days, in lieu of concentrating on the lesson, we'd stare at her. Then come morning news. Miss Bruce was doing someone that everyone in our town—Ottawa—knew he hated the Saturday afternoon dance show on local television. His name? Peter Jennings. Draw your own conclusions about the impact those days had on me.

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Author of *The Maelstrom*. To comment, letter to man@cbc.ca.

FaceTime

Moving Taroni Eight days after Taroni's departure from his home in downtown Regina, police called off their media and guard forces for the five-year-old and are releasing their investigation on the possibility of his death. The family was interviewed about what police Chief Col. Johnston called "the carnage and chaos" that July 5 night when Taroni was shot. A sometimes on-camera news anchor, he said that he was connected with her disappearance, including a convicted sex offender.



more than went to bed around 13 o'clock and could not be found the next morning. A family member said they'd given police the names of five people who may be connected with her disappearance, including a convicted sex offender.



■ *Barry* I can't have "Smart World" for a million, Alex? And the answer is: No. *Barry* is an unlikely celebrity, he's a 41-year-old Montreal-based software engineer from Salt Lake City who won't go right away to give to him the US\$1-million mark for the first time in the TV show's long history. And he never had to buy a wheel.



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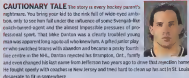
WORLD

PHILIPPINES In a case in that, symbolically at least, went right to the heart of George W. Bush's war coalition, the Philippine government agreed to pull its 51 peacekeepers from Iraq immediately to spare the life of a Philippine truck driver kidnapped by insurgents. The Philippines is thought to be set to pull out anyway by Aug. 30, but he was strongly urged by the U.S. administration and the new administration to keep out to give in six months. In a series of video exchanges, the Philippine captive thanked his government for agreeing to the terms.

IRIEL An independent commission charged Tony Blair's Labour government's Iraq intelligence. A five-month inquiry by former chief scientist Robin Butler concluded that Britain's pre-war assessment of Saddam Hussein's military might was "seriously flawed." The only good news for the Prime Minister: the inquiry found no one in government tried to stop the case for war, as the BBC earlier reported.

ALASKA Calling it a big vision project, the governor of Alaska is pushing Ottawa and the western provinces "greenboard" his US\$24-billion plan to create a cross-border corridor for northern resources by extending major highways, rail and a gas pipeline into northern British Columbia and Alberta.

BY GREG PERRY



CAUTIONARY TALE The story is every bickering parent's nightmare. You bring your kid to the risk of a wide-eyed ambulance, only to see him fall under the influence of some Swedish-like child-harvesting and the almost imperious pressure of professional sport. That tale parable was a clearly troubled young man who appeared long ago at a wedding. A gift of a car to play or who switched brains with a student and became a party foul. Live on in the 90s, Clinton reached his triumph, Oct. 1, finally and even changed his last name from Jefferson two years ago to drive that median home. He fought closely with coaches in New Jersey and tried hard to clean up his act in St. Louis, desperate to fit in somewhere.

Last week, in a surprise move, Clinton pleaded guilty in a St. Louis court to plotting to have David Frost, his long-time agent—some say surrogate father—killed by a hit man who turned out to be a justice in France. A former law firm, Kane Wolfson, a 19-year-old from a St. Louis suburb, has been charged as the improbably go-between. Wolfson is pleading not guilty. Clinton, 21, abandoned by the blues on July 1 to be a lone agent, opted to face the music. He is to be sentenced on Oct. 23, probably to between seven and 12 years in prison, likely to be served in Canada according to an agreement with U.S. prosecutors.

SEX CRIME Shocked Americans demanded a bishop's resignation after police turned up a large cache of child porn and photos of young children having sex with each other and their instructors at a summer camp in Vermont.

GAD MARRIAGE The U.S. Senate turned aside George W. Bush's request for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. But the absence of passage of the vote (50-50), US\$24-billion plan to create a cross-border corridor for northern resources by extending major highways, rail and a gas pipeline into northern British Columbia and Alberta.

Canadian jurisdiction, after B.C., Ontario and Quebec, to allow gay weddings.

MIDDLE EAST Liberal Party Leader Shimon Peres is to begin formal talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon over forming for the second time—a coalition government, due to come to oversee the poll of some 7,500 Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip. Sharon also invited an Orthodox Jewish party into the coalition, which may dampen Israel's economy.

In Saudi Arabia, a mosque-bombing suspect for al-Qaeda supporters, who are under a ban and you will not be executed—was virtually ignored in only three applied, one a school-leaving check who had appeared in a video with Osama bin Laden.

WHALING Japan is preparing to pull out of the International Whaling Commission—likely, perhaps, with other pro-whaling nations like Norway and Iceland—and form a real body to manage the resumption of commercial hunting. The IWC imposed a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986, but some members now want to lift it.

CHICKENITE Memorial clock prodigy Bobby Fischer, who has been hiding out from U.S. authorities for 12 years, was nabbed at Tokyo's Namba airport with an outdated passport. Afternoon of the U.S. #1, Fischer, 61, is wanted for breaking U.S. sanctions by traveling to Yugoslavia to play Russian national Boris Spassky in 1992.

HEALTH

CHOLESTEROL U.S. health authorities recommended much more aggressive treatment for people with moderate to high cholesterol, sharply lowering the threshold at which cholesterol-reducing drugs should be prescribed. The new guidelines could add 16 million Americans to those taking anti-cholesterol pills, and also influence decisions by Canadian physicians.

AIDS FIGHT With a promised US\$15 billion to fight AIDS, the U.S. is the world's biggest individual donor. But that didn't stop it from being the object of attacks, including sharp criticism from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, at a big AIDS conference in Thailand. Critics want the U.S. to stop its objections to the use of generic drugs, and to help focus research on AIDS drugs for children.

CANCER Health Canada authorized the first new breast cancer drug in 25 years, aromatase, aimed at post-menopausal women whose disease is detected early.

DRUGS Health Canada shipped its second batch of medical marijuana to those with a doctor's permit. But early reports found the pot was just as chemical-tasting and

had to burn as the first lot. Both were grown in an old mine shaft in Manitoba.

CANADA

RAZZED TRIAL Ottawa wanted its ambassador to the United States to be present after the trial of the man charged with killing Ontario's 24th premier, Bob Rae.



PRISONER Breaking with its tradition, rubber stamping images, the CRTC set off a firestorm of free-speech debate by banning the former of free-speech radio station CKOI-FM in Quebec City. The federal regulator and the station had ignored repeated warnings to clean up its act. The regulator also said the station says it will challenge the decision in Federal Court.

THE CRTC granted cable operators the right to carry the Arabic Al-Jazeera TV network.

work as a specialty digital service so long as they entered Al-Jazeera's market, as it has in the past. Cable companies said that would be difficult for them to guarantee, so they would not likely be offering the service after all.

U-BOAT The first Nazi ship to be found in Canadian waters was uncovered by a team of divers and documentary filmmakers off the northeast coast of Nova Scotia. U-boat 215 had a secret mission to raise Boston harbour, but its capture torpedoed a U.S. cargo ship carrying munitions and exposed his own position to a British warship nearby.

GST Two Ontario men, Douglas Priorities, 44, and Joseph Rafter, 51, sentenced to the longest GST fraud in Canadian history, were given four years in jail for bilking Ottawa of \$24 million in a complex, multi-year case involving fictitious cars. Most of the money was never recovered.

IMMIGRATION Toronto was the second most welcoming city in the world—after Miami—for newcomers, with 44 percent of its residents born outside the country. The other Canadian city on the UN list of the world's top 10 migrant cities, Vancouver, took fourth spot behind Los Angeles.

Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



OUR SHIPYARD FOLLIES

Ottawa wants to spend \$2 billion on hybrid vessels that have yet to be designed

DURING THE 1950s, when federal money ran like hot water, the Canadian Forces went on a rare shopping spree. They bought frigates, cargo trucks and other starry-wheeled creations dabbled with impossible armaments. And there was plenty to buy because Ottawa insisted Canadian manufacturers had to produce them, even though the vehicles were built under license from U.S. and European designers. Ottawa defence analyst Flore's March figures we paid two-and-a-half times the original manufacturer's retail price for these trucks. In effect, defence spending was deployed as a tool of regional development. "It was an enormous premium," March says. "Exorbitant."

That "Buy Canadian" policy, once again, the hot defence topic as Ottawa finally launches another drive to replace crumbling equipment. Orders for everything from munitions to mobile gas systems to search and rescue aircraft are in the works. But it is the quest for new supply ships, to replace vessels at the end of their 33-year service life, that is now making the most heated, behind-the-scenes debate. Not only is Ottawa determined to build the ships here, at a time when many shipyards have declined into virtual decay,

the hot defence topic as Ottawa finally launches another drive to replace crumbling equipment. Orders for everything from munitions to mobile gas systems to search and rescue aircraft are in the works. But it is the quest for new supply ships, to replace vessels at the end of their 33-year service life, that is now making the most heated, behind-the-scenes debate. Not only is Ottawa determined to build the ships here, at a time when many shipyards have declined into virtual decay,

“They are like Swiss Army knives: they sound a little far-fetched,” warns military expert Senator Colin Kenny. “It worries me.”

The reason would carry supplies to warships like frigates and destroyers could remain out of port for far longer. They would erode everything from food to fuel, medical facilities and helicopter maintenance areas. They would be

able to transport vehicles and stores for an entire army battle group. And they could function as command and control centers if a war effort to go ashore. The navy plans to evaluate industry interest and ask two qualified companies for both design and construction bids. It expects the first vessel in 2011/2012. Good luck.

The \$2.1 billion advance is a receipt for controversy. While shipyard lobbyists make politicians like Charles in a task, many are asking how long a question about what we want and when we should buy it. Liberal Senator Colin Kenny, who will likely be re-elected as Senate defence committee chairman, says Ottawa should be making the right ship and convert them to meet its needs. (Australia is buying off-the-shelf supply ships for one-third of our cost.) Then it should get one or two frigates for transporting vehicles, ensuring a command and control center on the deck. "Ottawa was a military expenditure as a tool for regional development," says Kenny. "If governments want to develop regions, they should build a shipyard."

Others caution that, despite Ottawa's badly broken shipbuilding policy, few shipyards remain capable of doing such work. Perhaps, says York University defence analyst Martin Shadrach, Ottawa could buy the bulkhead elsewhere and then fit them with such critical parts as electronics here. And while he likes the notion of ships with multiple uses, "I would be too happy if some body else had done it first," adds Kenny. "They are the Swiss Army knives they sound a little far-fetched. It worries me."

The course is clear: before Ottawa spends a cent, the military must prove these hybrids will work. And, surely, in the 21st century, Ottawa should think about using defence risk for regional industrial schemes.

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. mary.janigan@rogers.com

Passages

DIED She was often described as the first lady of Canadian literature, an effie, Susan Shawson, whose beauty who dominated the stage at the Stratford and Bloor City between film and TV. Frances Hyland died at a Toronto hospital of complications following appendicitis surgery. She was 77.



INDICTED NHL star Darryl Hendry, 23, of the Atlanta Thrashers, was formally charged with vehicular homicide and five other offences relating to the September crash last year that killed friend and teammate Dan Snyder, 25. Hendry's former coach, who was in the accident, which occurred on a residential Atlanta street. Alcohol was not a factor.

SENTENCED The day after his graduation from living in the "big house," Martha Stewart, 62, weighed a five-month prison term as well as a US\$30,000 fine and five months of home detention for lying to investigators about a stockpiled in a friend's company. She remained free pending an appeal.



FBIED Three well-known government whistle-blowers—senators Shiva Chawla, Margaret Hagan and Gerald Lambert, who had often complained about being pushed to approve necessary drugs they did not feel were safe—were named by Health Canada. No reasons were given, but officials maintained the findings had nothing to do with the two's public warnings.

RESIGNED Worljet Airlines co-founder Mark Hill, 42, quit as vice-president of the upstart discount following allegations he had paid on real Air Canada by accessing one of its employee databases. Air Canada is suing Worljet for several million dollars over the alleged corporate espionage. It said Hill wronged the off-its-terms Web site. 134,634 views.



MAKING THE HOUSE A HOME

Canada's first anti-homophobia MP, Vancouver Conservative Steven Fletcher, announced a full hour of replacement bill—but only by using the service provider in some places because his motorized wheelchair was too big. "Building chairs isn't the only way to solve this problem," he said. "It's a matter of making sure the chairs are big enough to fit the chairs in."

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Giddy Liberal MPs shouted '10 more years' as they gathered for their first caucus meeting. Let's get through the next half-year first, writes PAUL WELLS.

NOTHING IN LIFE, Winston Churchill said, is as exhilarating as to be shot at without result. Last week, many of the 115 Liberal candidates who won their ridings in the party June 28 election convened in Ottawa, and reminded one another that they, at least, had survived, and permitted themselves to feel a little giddy.

The first caucus greeted Paul Martin with shouts of "10 more years." Martin promised defeated candidates, who were also in the room, that he'd provide the kind of government that will "smile in a lot easier for you to win seats the next time." One MP said after the meeting that this minority government business won't be a problem. "We're sure to have

the Conservatives' support for things like defence and Canada-U.S. relations, and the Bloc's support for social programs. We won't even need to bother with the NDP."

Piece of cake, really. Or — no. There's another school of thought which holds that Martin's headaches have already begun, with the selection of a cabinet to be unveiled on July 26, and that the challenges won't end any time soon. Cabinet building, like almost everything else on Martin's to-do list, is tremendously complicated by his party's failure to win a majority. It was common for government ministers to complain before the last election that everything Martin's team did was heavily influenced by pre-election considerations. Well, the pre-election has been extended indefinitely since a majority can fall at almost anytime, the temptation to view every election

through a tactical lens will be hard to resist. So Martin needs to show openness to the West, the region of the country that deluged him with calls for his resignation on June 28. The Liberals have only one MP in Saskatchewan and two in Alberta, suddenly it's a good name to be a C.B. Liberal, because the province has lost two cabinet-worthy MPs, Ujal Dosanjh and David Emerson, to Ottawa. But Atlantic Canada also wants in. "We have the second largest caucus in the country now," one Atlantic MP said last week. "We should have more ministers." Ontario and Quebec Liberals are engaged in the same game of musical chairs. Regional considerations aren't the only piece of the cabinet puzzle. Martin needs to reward his loyalists, send out a balanced olive branch to former ministers whose only sin was loyalty to

Among other things, Martin needs to show openness to the West.



Jean Chretien, and bring in new blood—while protecting sensitive portfolios from the blunder even talented rookies can make.

That would be enough challenge for any PM. But for Martin, it's just a start. In September he meets with the premiers on health care. He's already promised "as long as it takes" to "fix health care for a generation." That heads the premiers a hefty increase to drug the meetings out, hoping Martin will offer more money. And as the health care rolls gear up, another ghost from Martin's recent past will return to haunt him: the spending-scandal, in the form of Mr. Justice John Gomery's judicial inquiry. Gomery plans to begin eight months of public hearings in September. If he finds evidence of wrongdoing at the highest levels of the Chretien government, the

THE Prime Minister's headaches have already begun. Given what lies ahead, they're unlikely to end any time soon.

Liberal brand as general could be tarnished. Any other head-of-State. How about gay marriage? Liberals actually did a pretty good job of avoiding that divisive subject during the election campaign, but how now, their backs are about to be put out. The Supreme Court may finally begin hearing testimony on questions the Liberal government put to it about gay marriage in 2003 (Martin attended the questioning in February, delaying the hearings). Of course, before that can happen, Martin needs to fill two Supreme Court vacancies. He's promised more input from parliamentarians into the appointment of Supreme Court justices. It's hard to imagine Stephen Harper's Conservatives being satisfied with any process Martin proposes.

The same challenges will face Martin when he finally gets around to filling Senate vacancies, including three from Alberta. None of these things are bordering doom. Martin, if he is determined, he will be able to do each of them. He won't be eager to race back to the election any time, so he will have some breathing room. But there will be mountains ahead when Martin and his caucus will have occasion to remember the giddy howls of their midsummer meeting and ask themselves: what were we thinking?

HARD-SELL ADOPTION

Some 26,000 Canadian kids need homes, writes SUE FERGUSON. Does aggressive marketing—Web sites, videos—dehumanize them or just help find families?

ONE COLD, cloudy Monday morning last year, Esther and Tom Offert woke up as usual to the 6:30 news. The voice on the radio was saying that in 2001, only 216 of 4,700 permanent wards in Alberta had been adopted. It also announced that Alberta Children's Services had launched a Web site featuring photos, information and, yes, even maps, video clips of 90 kids waiting to be adopted. The Offerts were online that day. With the profiles just two disks of the mouse away, they scrolled on an image of three siblings described as "normal, lovable who would do well on a farm." The couple, who run a mixed farm in the Lethbridge area and already had four older biological children and two adopted children, knew they'd found their match. This past February, those kids, 12- and 8-year-olds girls and their brother, 11, joined the Offert clan.

"We like kids cheap," Esther says about watching for a child online. "Like we were shopping," adds Tom. "But these are children getting their forever homes," adds Esther. "Little girls who know that when they get married, they're going to have a duty to walk behind the bride. Those things are huge."

She's right. Living in a permanent home is critical to a child's well-being. Studies show that adopted kids fare significantly better socially and academically than those returned home or left in foster care—even long-term foster care. Esther may also be right about the effectiveness of the Alberta site: in its first year, it received 3.5 million hits and increased public adoption placements by 30 per cent. A few other Canadian agencies post foster children's pictures on

the Internet, but the sites are password-protected, intended for screened applicants. By contrast, anyone can navigate the Alberta site without disclosing personal information. While many in the field acknowledge that this sort of public marketing of children is ethically dicey, the sheer advertising power of the Internet has captured most observers' of its merits.

Adoption advocates are desperate for strategies that work. Although exact figures are elusive because provinces collect data in different ways, the Adoption Council of Canada (ACC) notes 23,949 children in the permanent care of the state in 2000. Not all of them were slated for adoption; most children will remain in foster care or group homes. Cross-cultural considerations also prevent many Aboriginal children from getting adopted. All this adds up to an alarmingly low placement rate: of at most 26,000 kids in 2000, only 1,595 found permanent homes with adoptive parents.

The vast majority of the remaining children grow up without the love and security they'd get from committed parents. Among these kids, some find a foster home to sit other—the average foster child in Ontario, for example, moves every 22 months—many drop out of high school and/or suffer poor health and unemployment. One U.C. study found that, within two to four years of leaving on their own, less than 25 per cent of the province's former long-term wards were self-supporting. And because the numbers of Status Indians



Two-year-old Nathaniel at home "for us," says his dad. "It's somewhere."

billions into care jumped by 71.5 per cent, between 1995 and 2006—scattering experts put down to the general level of poverty and relative underfunding of First Nations child welfare agencies—the situation has only led to racial inequality and discord. In a vessel shared by adoption advocates across the country, ACC chair Sandra Smith calls the overall situation “appalling.”

Meanwhile, foreign and private adoptions continue to thrive. Foreign adoptions by Canadians, which typically cost between \$15,000 and \$30,000, are steady at about 2,000 children a year. No central agency tracks how many private adoptions (which usually run between \$6,000 and \$12,000) are completed each year, but the figure has remained to be in the hundreds. People choose to adopt—frequently because of infertility, which affects about one in 10 Canadian couples—often through public adoption because of a mismatch between supply and demand. Most want healthy white infant girls. Permanent ones, however, are generally older, though a large proportion are still under 2. They tend to be culturally diverse, with special physical or emotional needs, including problems becoming attached to new caregivers (in most cases, these issues diminish or disappear altogether after the child is adopted). Some are adoptable only as part of sibling groups. And an estimated 20 per cent have had significant exposure to alcohol (many more have been exposed to cocaine, and others to heroin), but these drugs are believed to have few long-term effects.

Public adoptions are also plagued by the myth that they take much longer than international and private ones to process. “People say Timor has a five-year waiting list,” says Nancy Dale, acting associate executive director of the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto. “We have no waiting list. Timor cost

happens way more quickly than many agencies expect. It’s generally a year. But, if you call today and ask our intake worker for a newborn baby—no risks, white girl—we would say to you, we do those placements, but it’s going to be a longer wait.”

Adoption has only recently become a priority for child-welfare agencies. After a number of high-profile cases in which children in the care of abusive biological and foster parents died, “all the energies went into investigations,” says Smith. “People got kids into care and forgot about getting them out.” Along with battling child murder on the frontlines, the two big challenges face child-welfare agencies and a public that is unaware of these kids’ plight—and potential.

But there is a silver lining. Recent campaigns in British Columbia, Alberta and New Brunswick have put adoption front and centre. Ontario is also seeing to increase placements by 15 per cent over 12 months. The most impressive results to date are in the East: an aggressive advertising strategy coupled with an injection of resources into child-welfare agencies increased New Brunswick placements by 188 per cent last year. Still, it’s Alberta’s more controversial practice of using pictures and video clips of actual foster children on public-access Web sites that’s being treated as the way forward. As for those tricky ethical questions? Proponents ultimately claim that revealing information getting kids adopted, they say, may require doing things you’d rather not.

Not everyone shares that view. Initially, critics assailed Alberta Children’s Services for undermining foster children’s privacy by making too much medical information available online. The province quickly responded and now, it’s a matter of making between

‘WE FELT A LITTLE CHOP’ looking online, says Esther Olfert. ‘But there are children getting their forever families.’



the lines. “Guarham has learned to express his wants and needs through pictures in his communications book,” but another issue—one that speaks to the Olferts’ sense of loss—persists. The site, say some critics, dehumanizes children. “It seems to treat kids as commodities, making them less like

performers where the ones who sing and dance less get adopted,” says Esther Olfert, director of the University of Manitoba’s Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics. “It’s part of our moral mission that something so necessary to human flourishing as a loving, supportive family—with your whole life at stake—shouldn’t hinge on whether you’re cute or can perform well.”

Yet a similar adage marketplace is already common. Across the country, screened applicants can flip through catalogues or attend events where hundreds like them view video clips and pictures of foster children. Toronto’s CAS Dale calls such gatherings “a very fine thing for people.” But, the insiders also find the means. “People can opt out to the best of a particular child,” and often become sensitive by kids with greater needs than they were first willing to consider. At best, the Web site—like monthly newspaper

columns featuring foster children that are allegedly effective—simply brings the process out in the open. “You can do it in a nice private office, and maybe that makes the public feel better,” says Dale. But at the end of the day, “nobody wants to have to tell a child, ‘You would have had a family but for the fact that we’re queer.’”

Still, scholars believe it’s premature to know if the Web strategy really works. The spike in Alberta’s numbers, he points out, may be due to other signs of the province’s adoption campaign—such as increased co-ordination with First Nations and non-profit agencies, or even its publicity around the site itself.

The adoption, however, that if there proves no better way of recruiting families, “a way that doesn’t pander to something unattractive in us, then, reluctantly, I’ll say let’s do that and get kids families.” No better way—there’s the rub.

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Nathalie! “It’s my absolute favourite and teddy bear,” says his father, Claude Proulx. “At three o’clock in the morning, he’ll walk into the bedroom and say, ‘Mummy, I love you.’ For us, it’s just this.” The retired Canadian National ice player from Grande-Du Lac, N.B., and his wife, Diane, were in their early 50s when they decided to adopt Nathalie in 2002. The couple had founded since 1978 but never pursued adoption because, he says, “social workers told us it would take five to six years before we’d get any children.” More recently, they believed they had grown too old.

But in 2002, adoption had moved onto

New Brunswick’s front burner. Borrowing from a four-year-old B.C. campaign that saw placement rates jump by up to 49 per cent, the newly formed New Brunswick Adoption Foundation turned TV and radio stations with ads aimed at recruiting adoptive parents. (“The upset dad didn’t feature actual foster children but was paid child care terminated.”) “People couldn’t believe there were more than 600 children who needed homes,” says foundation head and retired senator Ernie Cohen. As with most public adoptions, “they weren’t healthy infants.”

Adopting, however, is only half the story. The province also beefed up resources, hiring 25 more social workers. Agencies whose work consisted largely of removing children from anti-burns could now shift attention to placing kids. In fact, it was a social worker who approached the Proulxers about adopting Nathalie. The first time she had done so in the couple’s 23 years of fostering. And the process took one year, not eight. There’s “no question,” says Cohen, “we would have placed 354 children in 12 months if there weren’t 23 extra people.”

More workers, isn’t that a better way? Perhaps. Unfortunately, it’s not likely to get tested elsewhere anytime soon. In Ontario, funding for Children’s Services levelled off in 1997, says Roy Walsh, executive director of the Ontario Children’s Aid Society. “Our capacity to provide a full range of services and staff has really eroded since.” Children and youth services minister Marie Robitaille’s recent announcement of a child welfare summit to look at adoption is a hopeful sign. And the provincial government did inject \$84.8 million into the system to pay down agencies’ budget shortfalls for 2002 to 2003. But with no new money to improve staffing, subsidies to families and the weakness of services, says Walsh, “I’m guarded in my optimism.” Meanwhile, in B.C., overall cost to social services, says the ACC’s Smith, has resulted in adoption workers getting pulled off task to work in other areas. (B.C. agencies placed 338 children last year, but the number of kids available for adoption, not more than 5,000, keeps growing.)

That tight fiscal environment should ignite interest in another initiative: subsidies for adoptive families. All foster families receive a per diem, which they stand to lose if they adopt the child they’re fostering. While

SO MANY CHILDREN—AND SO FEW PLACES

	Canada	B.C.	Alb.	Sask.	Man.	Ont.	Que.	N.S.	P.E.I.	N.B.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nunavut
Children in care	65,736	11,287	1,348	2,966	3,358	15,200	26,886	194	127	1,367	703	234	418
Permanent needs	25,169	5,234	3,929	3,077	3,349	6,268	6,761	673	36	190	231	130	140
Number placed	1,585	174	172	48	116	793	1,391	41	6	67	42	7	6
Placements as % of available kids	6.2	3.3	4.4	4.7	3.5	12.5	5.9	6.8	20.6	6.1	21.6	6.5	5.3

(Children do not include all discharged children with status, and we are not taking in a fully representative sample. SOURCE: ADOPTEES COUNCIL OF CANADA, 2006/07

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most provinces offer limited assistance for low-income families with special-needs kids, none guarantee it. It's hard to figure out why not, given the potential savings. Depending on where you live in Canada, it costs up to \$40,000 a year to keep a child in care (factoring in assistance, training and travel). Were a family to adopt that child, and receive as much as \$1,000 a month, says Scarth, the price tag falls to \$12,000.

What money can't buy, sometimes politics can. Gary Kitzman and Patrick Bernholden wanted a child ever since they first got together 17 years ago. But "it was only with recent legal and social changes that it became more realistic to pursue adoption," says Kitzman, a sociology professor at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ont. Two years ago, the couple approached the local Children's Aid Society (Cape Vincent "CIS") when filling in a form that asked the reasons for their infertility, their experience was "incredibly positive," he adds. Their school-age son—abandoned in with their late last summer—has two far outnumbered by serious harassment. "You hear little whispers that people don't approve," says Bernholden, a high school teacher. "While most provinces permit adoption by same-sex couples, many agencies are reluctant to facilitate it. Similarly, there remains a bias in

THE MYTH persists that public adoptions take much longer than international or private ones

some quarters," says Scarth, about single people adopting—a strategy some sex couples sometimes use to circumvent legal restrictions or social disapproval. "People have this pervasive idea that all these gay and lesbian couples are taking all the children away," adds Bernholden. "They have no comprehension whatsoever about the incredible need for parents to give loving homes to children who don't have them. It's absurd."

For the children who don't need permanent homes, those twisted ideas can't change social causes. Television ads with paid child actors, adoption subsidies to encourage foster parents to adopt and increased staffing would also make an enormous difference—no question, says Scarth.

LEAVING THE DOORS OPEN

Interaction between adoptive and birth families isn't for everyone. But when it works, it can give children a greater sense of being loved.

ERINNA SANDS was just 2½ weeks old when her father decided that he and her mom needed help. "It was around about how Carrie was handling the baby—she wasn't herself," says Gary Sands (no protest: Erinna's given name, all the names have been changed). He picked up the phone and a social worker soon arrived at his door. Carrie, diagnosed with schizophrenia, was admitted to hospital. Sands, who had spent years in and out of jail for petty crimes driven by his drug and alcohol addiction, was left to parent by himself. On his wife's rooming house months later, things spiralled out of control once again. "One of her friends introduced me to cocaine," says Sands, "and that was it. I was back in court—lost my job and ended up going to jail." Erinna was soon to live with a foster family and, by her first birthday, the foster parents had agreed to adopt her.

Erinna turned 12 in February. When Sands, now a youth counselor and in a new relationship, arrived at her Port Colborne, B.C., home for the birthday party with his nine-month-old son, she yelled to friends in the house, "When meet my baby brother?" The poignancy of that moment wasn't lost on Sands. "I would like, now," he recalls.

This isn't a story of a birth father reuniting with his child. Outside of a few periods, including a two-month stay in a recovery house, he has seen Erinna regularly, talking her to swimming lessons and movies (Carrie has disappeared from both their lives). In recent months, Erinna, who calls

36-year-old Sands "Daddy Gary," has begun to spend the occasional night at his house. Erinna's adoptive parents encouraged the relationship from the beginning—calling her to visit birth-in-jail and maintaining contact even when, on parole in the early 1990s, he fled, unsuccessfully, for custody.



Open adoption of this nature is rare. Traditionally, adoption has been shrouded in secrecy, with every effort made to create birth parents and adoptive families never see each other. But judges, says Adoption Council of Canada chair Sandra Scarth, are increasingly reluctant to sever children's ties to

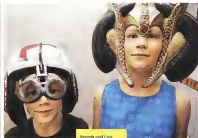
their biological parents, believing that giving kids information about their origins is critical to maintaining a healthy sense of self. For the same reason, private agencies now continuously attempt to have birth parents meet and choose the prospective adopters, and keep in touch with their child through

letters, photos and, in some cases, visits. But openness is a serious proposition for families who opt for public adoption. Themselves of permanent words are often scarred by mental illness and addiction, or have abused or neglected their children. And, unless the law clearly spells out the rights of

the various parties (as in doesn't B.C. and Newfoundland), families who arrange open adoptions are taking a leap of faith. "It's hard to tell potential adopters unequivocally" that the birth family couldn't take the child back once their custody at any time, says Nancy Dale, senior associate executive director of

the Children's Aid Society of Toronto. "This issue is further complicated by Ontario by a law that prevents the over 6,000 Crown wards with access orders—legal provisions for contact between birth parents and the children taken from them—from getting adopted. "If you have an access order," says Dale, "you grow up in foster care. That's the plan." At least, it is for now. Minister of Children and Youth Services Marie Desautels says the government intends to free kids with access orders for adoption when it has their best interest and hopes to introduce openness legislation by next year, as part of a wider initiative to boost placement rates.

In the meantime, some families are able to work out all the openness arrangements. Two years ago, Patsy and Ken Wines, who live in the southern Ontario town of Arkell and already had biological children Kyra, 13, and Brett, 11, adopted Lisa, now 10, and her brother Joseph, 8. They would happily have also taken brother Alan (a pseudonym), now 14, but because of an access order he remains in foster care. With the help of the local Children's Aid Society, however, Alan regularly visits and phones his siblings. He joined the Wines for 10 days at their cottage in Prince Edward Island last July. He's also served as a go-between, delivering letters and Christmas presents from their birth mother—from whom the children were seized by police three years ago (she's permitted to see Alan six times a year)—to his brother and sister. In time, the Wines



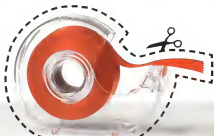
Joseph and Lisa receive letters and presents from their birth mother

sister were adopted. When his sister later contacted her birth parents, he says, "it just about destroyed our family"—an experience he's not anxious to repeat by searching out his own roots. At the same time, he and Patsy and Ken Wines need to have the last word in arranging the terms of contact. Adopting is "just like when you bring your new baby home from the hospital," says Patsy. "You want to hold it for yourself, so you can get adjusted. Then as it gets older, you're OK to let go."

Many adoptive parents fear the birth parents are the ones who won't let go. But,

visits if he started to slip into his old ways again.

As for the kids, rather than feeling abandoned, they can gain a sense of being loved and valued by more than one set of parents—a principle behind adoption within First Nations. Cindy Blackstock, executive director of First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada, recalls the adoption ceremony she attended at Alberta's Yellowhead Tribal Services Agency in 2000. Elders and family members from the children's and the adoptive families' bands were all present. "Watching the ceremony step forward to take care of



THEY WILL go back and see their mom when they're of age. Why put up a brick wall when it's going to be torn down?

up, they'll arrange for Lisa and Joseph to visit her. For now, however, the letter to Lisa—which reads in part "I wish for you a happy home. I know I am still missing"—helped alleviate Lisa's feeling of responsibility for her biological mother's well-being, now adoptive mom Patsy. It was "incredibly important" to the girl, she adds.

For Ken Wines, openness is just a matter of common sense. They'll go back and see their mom when they're of legal age," he says. "Why put up a brick wall when it's going to have to be torn down?" He speaks from experience: both he and his

notes Smith, "people haven't been clamoring to get their children back. In fact, they often fade off into the distance after they're satisfied things are fine with their child." For those, like Gary Sands, who stick around, it's not always easy. In the early days, he says, "I felt like Emma's niece, my personal peace of property." But eventually, "through time and all the heartache," he learned to put her interests ahead of his own. "I'm anxious to myself," says Sands. "I had to be really understanding of the adoptive parents." He encouraged an agreement limiting contact to supervised monthly

those five children was the most moving experience of my life," she says. "It was something to be celebrated—nothing to be ashamed of." Were openness readily accepted in public adoptions, the odds might help navigate the stormy waters of cross-cultural adoptions. "The children wouldn't have a sense of having to choose."

And, in Emma's case, the bond's been the only one to benefit. Her adoptive parents, says Gary Sands, "saw me go through a lot of things, show up in meetings, crying. They never closed their door on me"—giving a home, in effect, to daughter and father. ■

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DEAR POLICYHOLDER...

First it was soaring car premiums. Now, as insurance companies refuse to cover more and more properties, it's homeowners' turn to see red.

STEPHANIE LEWIS, a Toronto insurance broker, remembers the panicked call: "The elderly woman on the other end of the line told her she'd owned her home for three years and had never made a claim. Yet suddenly she received a letter from her insurer company informing her that her policy wouldn't be renewed because her old tank had turned 15 years old, making her a high-risk client. The woman soon realized that was no minor nuisance. She needed to secure another policy because any lapse in coverage would tarnish her insurance record, leading to higher premiums. Besides, she had no choice: she had a mortgage, and lenders want that homes they finance to be insured. Despite the desperation in the

woman's voice, Lewis, an account executive at Sun Life of Canada Insurance Brokers Ltd., had to turn her away because, like many brokers today, the companies she represents won't take on homes deemed risky. The caller wound up going to a firm specializing in high-risk insurance, and her premium almost quadrupled. "People have to be informed like never before about what can make them high-risk," Lewis says. "If not, they learn the hard way it can be very sad."

Earlier this year, her three-year-old son was hit by a car. Lewis says she was hit by a car. Lewis says she was hit by a car. Lewis says she was hit by a car.

insurance. The problem isn't so much skyrocketing rates—home insurance has risen 11 per cent in the past year, versus 26 per cent for cars—but the frequency of rejections. More people are having trouble getting policies, and those with coverage are finding Dear John letters from insurers in their mailboxes. Unlike car insurance, where companies can't drop you unless they can show cause, homeowners' policies are a largely unregulated branch of the industry.

Insurers haven't made much use of this freedom until recently, when a mix of disasters and environmental losses hooked them to redefine risk. Now, even with claims free here, you can find

Last year, more B.C. residents filed to buy policies on their homes

yourself dropped for reasons ranging from the understandable—a bad credit rating, outdated wiring—to the bizarre: claims on another property such as a boat, a call collecting details of your coverage, the wrong pet.

Lewis has heard many tales of woe. One woman, whose neighbor made a claim after sewage backed up into his basement, called her insurance company to ask about her coverage if—hypothetically—the same happened to her. That phone call counted as a claim, based on the potential risk—a sure no-claim among insurers that deal directly with consumers. Another claim within five years brands you a high-risk client. “People have become afraid to make claims,” says Lewis, adding, “Companies are evaluating you as a risk, and consumers are not used to having to make themselves a marketable commodity.”

ONE woman asked her insurer whether she’d be covered if her sewer backed up. That call counted as a claim.

To assess whether you’re worth doing business with, companies are keeping better track of claims, asking more questions and verifying applications, sometimes with the so-called drive-by “boom-chopped wood on the property may indicate a wood issue as the home’s primary heat source—that means risk. Constantly having more than two cars in the driveway may be a sign of excess—again, risk. Anything that doesn’t mesh with an application could trigger an investigation, or even a policy cancellation. Reason given? “Whatever the insurance of fools rationale is in their heads,” says Leo Korman, president of the Consumer’s Guide to Insurance, an insurance-rate comparison service. “They don’t have to say why.”

It’s not just homeowners being declined, apartment dwellers are also finding it hard to get coverage. Chandra Andrews, 48, of Belleville, Ont., had tenured insurance until she moved into a shared house. When she moved back into her own apartment she agreed to forgo it, until her 16-year-old son moved in with her, along with \$15,000 worth of musical equipment. She shopped around but, due to the time lapse, no carrier would sign her. “I’m still hoping I can get someone

insurance,” she says, “but I’m looking at higher rates and a higher deductible.”

Why is the industry turning down paying customers? After all, the Canadian insurance sector generated \$1.6 billion in profit last year, and the real estate boom would suggest a rich market. “It’s not a consumer rating, I’m sure I’d be asking what the heck is going on,” says Paul Page, a senior underwriter at insurance company American International Group Inc. “But given the problems of the past five or six years, some companies have had to whittle down the type and the number of clients they take. If you fall into a predetermined category, you may come out on the short end of the stick.”

Some of these problems are the same ones driving hikes in auto premiums. Consumers have been making more claims, some essentially using their insurance as a home-repair piggy bank. As well, a spate of costly natural disasters—from Hurricane Andrew in Florida to the Quebec ice storm—produced a big jump in payouts. Companies relied on income from the investments of premium money to carry them through—and the bear market dented that revenue stream, too. Sept. 11 further added to the stress. Needing to get on solid financial footing, companies have been shedding risk, especially the “unquantifiable” kind. Some pare their client pools in large cities where a disaster would be financially ruinous. Others no longer insure homes with aging oil tanks or volatile breeds of dogs that could harm someone and draw a massive lawsuit.

As the balance of power shifts between consumers and insurance providers, people are growing afraid to make any claims lest their policies are cancelled—and they face the devastating prospect of not having insurance when they really need it. Lindy Olson, vice-president of the Pacific region for the Insurance Bureau of Canada, remembers getting calls during the B.C. wildfire last August and the desperation of those trying to buy insurance even as they watched flames approach. “People who haven’t participated in the risk pool will have trouble during a state of emergency,” warns Olson.

Insurance professionals stress that consumers reluctant to file any but big-ticket claims is precisely how the system is supposed to work. In discussion, fear of rejection is a good thing. “People need some insurance not as a tool for reimbursement,” says Lewis, “but as a guard against catastrophe.”



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THE TIME OF THE TIGER

China's economy has come roaring back, shrugging off the pundits

IT'S OFFICIAL: this is China's century. That's the proclamation in a splendidly researched cover story in the New York Times Sunday magazine issue published—so no one could mistake the significance—on the fourth of July by coincidence, the article, the best I have read on the subject, appeared at a time investors were scrambling to shift their bets on the global economy from the United States to China. The result: U.S. stock indices, led by Nasdaq, slumped; Chinese stocks rose sharply. The U.S. dollar fell in global currency markets, driving stock back up through the psychologically important level of US\$400 an ounce.

Prices of major industrial metals rose, as they did, in response to rising Chinese demand. As a result, share prices of major mining companies leapt. The most watched global cargo shipping index, the Baltic freight index, which had been sagging through the second quarter, rose 30 percent in late June and in early July in a surge attributed to rising demand for space on shipwrecking Chinese ports.

From February until late June, global investors had been selling Chinese stocks. They left their U.S. exposure alone, as U.S. stock markets were going sideways; the pessimistic effect of soaring corporate earnings was offset by bad news from Iraq. The consensus view was that the U.S. economy was continuing to sputter along, whereas the Chi-

na had been decelerating. A few momentum-oriented observers used the alarm, but most investors noticed the economy wasn't gaining speed. Then, automobile sales slumped, despite near-record price discounts from the Big Three. Then, on July 2, the nonfarm payroll report for June shocked Wall Street, as the number of net new U.S. jobs, expected to be at least 200,000, as in the previous three months, came in at a mere 112,000—and the previous two months' strong gains were muted downwards.

At the same time, discount large Wal-Mart and Target reported significant sales declines after months of steady gains. The monthly purchasing managers' report from both the manufacturing and the service sectors, released in the first week of July,

THERE is near-zero risk that a huge percentage of China's economy is headed for collapse, because not all the multinationals will create excess capacity at the same time

showed unanticipated declines. Leading business software firms, such as Veritas, reported late June collapses in new orders.

Economists are scrambling to explain why the bastion economy has suddenly buckled. High oil prices are blamed, although they actually fell from US\$42 to as low as US\$36 during June, before climbing again in July. Four of many economists cited as a constraint on consumer spending is a sudden weakness in sales of consumer homes. The Rogers forecast is also riddled as a likely culprit—observers say consumers spend time watching TV rather

than money in stores. What those "empty markets" really mean is that there are new doubts about the health of the American economy. That means investors will be cycling the economic and earnings reports in coming weeks with great concern.

As for China, investors' renewed enthusiasm for the Middle Kingdom comes from the growing belief that the economies in helping don't really have a rough challenge. It has only been a few months since their biggest fear was deflation, so a little inflation is actually welcome. The consensus doesn't dare try to drive their double-digit economic growth down to a level that would be regarded as deflation in economic Europe—four per cent or so.

Meanwhile, millions of millions of Chinese are employed in state-owned operations, few of which make money. Giving people low paychecks in problem factories is a de facto bribe that keeps them from leaving. That won't those factories go bankrupt, thereby bursting the Chinese bubble?

In reality, what really drives China is the branch plants of foreign-owned companies.

Foreign direct investment gives China more than jobs. It provides capital, technology, management, global brands and distribution. No other Third World country selling Raw World's raw has relied so heavily on Western know-how. That means there

is near-zero risk that a huge percentage of China's economy is headed for collapse, because not all the multinationals will create excess capacity at the same time.

At last, the what many global investors are talking themselves those days as they go back to buying Chinese stocks and shares of Western mining and oil companies. The U.S. is no longer an economic hegemon. And despite its grandiose hopes, the EU is not No. 2. It's China.

Chicago-based Donald Cose is Global Portfolio Strategist, RBC Financial Group, dcose@rogers.com

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CHILDREN RAISING CHILDREN

They lost their parents to genocide or AIDS. Now, many of Rwanda's orphans are living in households headed by siblings.

THE CHILDREN of Rwanda have witnessed unspeakable horrors. During the 1994 genocide, many lost their families and were subjected to violence and rape. Some were forced to witness atrocities themselves. When the bloodshed ended, 95,000 had been erased. Added to that is the continuing death toll from the scourge of AIDS, with the result that Rwanda has one of the world's largest proportions of child-headed households: 42,000 of them, accounting for some 100,000 children. Earlier this year, *Nation's* Chief Photographer Peter Briggs spent time with orphaned survivors of the genocide. Among them was 19-year-old Rosine Nkurwiza (left), a single mother whose parents and two of her sisters were killed by Hutus in a three-bedroom house just north of Kigali, the capital, with her son Didier, 2, and siblings Herens, 20, Regin, 14, Maxine, 12, and Nadine, 10. The household is presided over by Rosine's sister Philiphine, 22.



Adolphus Gutzwiller, *No* (above right), and ten other *Negros*, 18, are single mothers who live with three younger children in their family home. Another sister Pasquella (below with Masini, who is about to fetch water from a stream two kilometers away), is the head of her household.



Letter from Milan

CRIMES AGAINST URBANITY

Tourists exhibit tacky tastes, but locals lapse too, says STEVE BURGESS



INSIDE MILAN'S magnificent Duomo, a building that induces massive conversions to look positively tacky, you can see the symbol of the powerful Medici clan—a shield decorated with snails, set in stained glass. Then, if you turn and look out through the cathedral doorways, you can see two large M's just across the vast square. It's a McDonald's, the latest of powerful trademarks, the Medici may have missed the boat.

Milan is a wonderful city, hard-core, they have a lot of Mickey DV. Right beside the Duomo is the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, a historic glass-covered shopping center with mosaic floors and arches that echo the monuments of Paris. At its centre, the Galleria features five boutiques, one on each corner: Mercedes-Benz, Prada, Louis Vuitton—and McDonald's. Nice, are you'll overuse, but still.

Every town has them, of course, and I didn't mean to be unfair to Italy's great middle metropolises. But somehow, here among many older, more venerable cities, the glass-covered ones look more conspicuous. As one of the great fashion cities of the world and hence to some of the planet's greatest artistic and architectural treasures, Milan sets up certain expectations. It both meets and defeats them.

Fashion, for example—one expects to see well-dressed Milanese striding the scene, and they are there to be seen. But I also saw a pair of Muscetti underwear sale, in the colours of the Italian flag. And a guy wearing a sagging pair of blue jeans with the word "Glen" written in aqua across his butt. ("I may

there are now golden arches under the glass-covered arches of the historic Galleria

will be displaying my fashion ignorance here—perhaps these items are more exotic away from overpriced the globe.) There was a much different taste on display as good.

In other words, Milan is a city. It's not an idea. It is also host to flocks of tourists, and responds to them in the usual way. Cities react to tourists like bodies to infection—they fixer at the point of invasion. Businesses that cater to locals disappear, replaced by a scabby covering of cheap merchants. In this regard,

AS ONE of the world's great fashion cities, Milan sets up certain expectations. It both meets and defeats them.

Milan is luckier than Florence and Venice. There are few historic places one can go in either of those two cities without encountering web trails selling fashion label B.I. bottles.

Likewise, the price of a coffee seems determined by a secret formula based on the number of Americans in the vicinity. My record so far this trip: 7.80 euros (about 12 bucks Canadian) for a double espresso at the Piazza della Repubblica in Florence. (Mind you, coffee is a huge export for Italy. Better informed me sweetly that his coffee-made shoes would set me back 1,750 euros,

or roughly three grand Canadian. A sign in his shop read, "Quality is remembered long after price is forgotten." You'd have to get pretty drunk to forget that one.)

Milan, like Rome, is big and busy enough to incorporate the tourist flow and still get on with life. Which would mean those McDonald's were completely ordinary sightings. Prada, the educated young women who own the world's most famous shoes, the Italian prime minister. "He is very pro-American and pro-business," the tell me. But Silvio Berlusconi isn't the one using all those big M's. Locals must love them.

Lord knows why any commercial Milanese would have to eat there—Milan is home to the great tradition of the one-drink buffet. In some of the historic districts such as the Navigli, early evening patrons can buy an aperitif and show down on an array of delicacies, absolutely free. Surely the bars will go broke? The irony, Prada confides, is "They always have more than one drink."

The joys of Milan are many and haunting for a Canadian. I am truly envious of the public life here and in other Italian cities—the evening passeggiata of activity and noise, people out drinking and talking in the streets late into the night.

And this fashionable city even finds a way to reconcile its high and low cultures. At this year's Milan Fashion Week in February, one couture company decided not to display its wares at the main hall. Instead, they informed customers they would be so engaged by a local McDonald's. At least they knew they wouldn't have to walk for 10

ATHENS UNDER THE GUN



Greece's coast-line poses problems for security officials: They already have armed officers patrolling the main port of Piraeus, where cruise ships will be used as floating hotels during the Games

There's still much to do, but Greeks, buoyed by their soccer success, have faith their \$1.6-billion Olympic security plan will work, DANYLO HAWALESHKA reports

THIS COULD GET interesting, I thought. I was standing outside the unfinished Olympic stadium in Athens, talking with two Australian tourists, when three cop cars pulled up and blocked the road. It was mid morning, but Athens was already unseasonably hot. Maybe 35°C, maybe more. I was asking the tourists whether they thought the Greeks could get the Games finished on time, and provide sufficient security, when the police officer in charge, a fellow in his early 30s with a Voluptuous nose and opaque sunglasses, got out of his car and strode purposefully toward us. He directed a machine-gun blast

of Greek at me. "Agiotas, miale Agiotas!" I asked. ("Excuse me, do you speak English?") He politely questioned us, and demanded identification. His colleague stood guard while he checked our identities. He came back five minutes later and told us to, in effect, get lost. "Keep moving," he said. "You can't stand here."

An hour later, at another entrance to the venue, I was alone and had just taken a picture of the stadium when the same cop showed up. He asked why I was still hanging around. I told him my understanding of our first encounter was he didn't want me to linger, but that it was OK to walk around (it was, after all, a public road). "Don't play word games with me," he warned, disconcerting to confront my film even though there were no signs prohibiting picture taking. With his hands behind his back like a drill sergeant, he leaned forward. "If you don't understand, we can learn you," he said, flashing a toothy, benevolent smile.

Toothy, but who can blame him? With the start of the Summer Games less than a month away, there's no shortage of finger-wagging critics who wonder whether this small Mediterranean nation of 10.6 million will be ready to host the world. It isn't simply the logistical challenge of crisscrossing a vast and improving road network. It's about

providing security in an ancient, post-9/11 world. But many Greeks, like Panagiotis Provas, a 29-year-old agricultural engineer, have faith in their nation. "I don't believe we will have any problems," says Provas. "We are against war, and the Arab people know this."

Really? It seems a simple. Organizers have invested over security since the 1972 Summer Games in Munich, when Palestinian terrorists infiltrated the Olympic compound and 11 Israeli athletes wound up dead. Greece's proximity to the Middle East and the mobbed Islamic masses special-interests, and its 5,000 islands, extensive coastline and a crumbling power grid that failed last week add to the headache. Security forces have been on alert since late November, when groups purportedly linked to al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for suicide bombings in nearby Turkey that killed dozens of people. Then, in May, domestic extremists bombed an Athens police station.

"The country has done just about everything possible," says Mary Iliou, who studies international security at Pantheon University in Athens. What's more, she says, the Greeks have not gone at this alone. They've enlisted the Olympic Adversity Group, a task force that includes seven terrorism experts from Australia, Britain, France, Germany, Israel, Spain, and the



Reporters' cameras have been installed to watch over Athens, but visitors like the main stadium won't be secured until they're finished being built.



United States, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization will provide AWACS radar surveillance aircraft, and Public Order Minister George Voulgarakis has said Greece will shoot down planes that pose a threat.

The knock against Greece is that many Olympic venues are only now approaching completion, so there won't be time to adequately model-check the defenses and potentially buggy computer systems. At the main stadium, not blacked-out workers have finally managed to install a technologically impressive roof that had been in doubt, but much more needs to be done—a steady parade of dump trucks still backs up enough dirt to cause a little approximation of a desert sandstorm. The road between Athens and Marathon—on which competitors will, yes, run the marathon—is still being paved. In contrast, the rowing venue is just about done and sealed off.

It'll all be fine, insists Regina Desfosses, a police major in the Ministry of Public Order and Security. "There is a timetable for everything," Desfosses insists with the help of a translator, "and we are on schedule for the time being." She's confident in the safety of the stadium being erected around the Games—at \$1.4 billion, a Games record, Greece's curvy budget ought to buy a lot of protection. "Whatever is happening now I hope predict has been predicted," claims Desfosses. "We have counted and considered

more than 200 extreme-case scenarios." Likewise to ease security fears for religious, biological and chemical threats have been successfully run, Desfosses says. As of July 1, Greece entered a heightened security phase, when 10,000 personnel—including police, armed forces and firefighters—looked up duty at the various Olympic stadiums and certain public areas. The balance of the 70,000-strong force is still being

THE surveillance cameras miss concerns. 'They can watch people,' says Kanellopoulos, 'and you have no choice.'

deployed. Extra police now patrol busy downtown districts, the training parks, and the frequently packed transportation. "There are going to be 70,000 armed officers providing protection," says RCMP spy Louie Labaree, the liaison officer for the Canadian Olympic Committee and Sports Canada in Athens. "They already spent three times what you pay me—in for. I have full confidence."

The heavily guarded venues are likely safe, but what about so-called soft targets? There are, for example, dozens of the soft locations scattered throughout Athens—it would seem to be almost child's play to plant a

bomb. Desfosses insists that it's been covered off, too, although she won't say how. "We will do something," she says, "but our approach is to avoid disclosure or to verify the measures we intend to take for common things."

A handful of journalists have crested into Olympic construction sites to report on the work and write articles about the security. Greek authorities have responded by, in essence, dismissing the breaches with a "What do you expect? We're not ready yet." One journalist, who asked Marathon to withhold his name, presented himself to a guard at the main gate of the Olympic Stadium in early June. The reporter had a pass, but it was for early the next day, he says, a fact the guard missed. "He didn't even get off his chair," says the writer, who missed the site, as expected, with a large bag and camera. He wondered about, taking pictures, he says, before two guards stopped him and politely but firmly asked him to leave. He kept his flint, "if I had a truck," he says, "I think I could have gotten in."

It's never known, but that seems like a stretch, given James Kearsley's experience at the same location only a week later. Kearsley, a TV journalist for German and Austrian news outlets, and her cameramen were filming the stadium interior, as per her permit. "I wanted to film more, but they said stop and called in their boss," recalls

Kearsley. "He was there in two minutes." The supervisor denied her request to film the extra footage.

My own experience was mixed. On one hand, I charged heads with the Athens mayor. On the other, I easily could have walked into an adjoining building at the same venue. While two guards stood at the front entrance of the two-story apartment complex, a gap in the chain-link fence and a wide open side door made it possible to stroll right in. When I questioned Desfosses about this the next day, she claimed that one of the many security cameras would have spotted me had I chosen to enter illegally. "It's certain you would have been seen," she says. "You don't have to worry."

There are, officials say, 1,577 surveillance cameras in Athens, 1,034 at Olympic venues, and another 550 along busy streets. They can focus in on individuals, pick up sound (in stadium conversations) and are equipped with megaphones to broadcast emergency instructions. Some Athens, like Yanna Kanellopoulos, a 27-year-old actress, thinks the cameras are a necessary evil, but they raise troubling privacy concerns. "For me, it's dangerous," she says. "They can watch people and you have no choice."

How things change. Dick Pound, an international Olympic Committee member who was on the Canadian team that won at the 1960 Games in Rome, recalls the general good old days, when the only security needed "was to keep the boys out of the girls' village." Those innocent times might as well be an ancient history to the Greeks, but somehow, on the post-9/11 2004 euphoria, they now believe they can do anything. Desfosses notes security forces have already begun sweeping some Olympic venues for explosives. And Pound, in the past one of the Athens organization's harshest critics, offers an equivocal word of support: "I think we can have a pretty high degree of confidence," he says, "but nothing's perfect."

Mani Theodoridis, a 43-year-old taxi driver sitting behind the wheel of his yellow cab, hunched back like a scorpion, propped up his head to hold back his shoulder-length, bushy black hair. Not to worry, he says. "We are," he notes, "the people of the last minute." That's all well and good, but when it comes to security, it's not enough to simply let the world in. 

With BEN MACQUEEN

'ENEMY OF THE BAD GUYS'

DICK POUND is a Montreal law lawyer, chancellor of McGill University, a member of the International Olympic Committee and president of the World Anti-Doping Agency. In his spare moment, he would write three books being published this year, most recently about the Olympics. He also found time to chat with *Maclean's* Sports Editor James Dewart.



Is finding drug cheats another great way to make money? Well, there are a lot of officers of potential officers who really are willing to come to grips with the whole problem of doping.

You've accused the U.S. of hiding past doping, and now the TIG design-chemical scandal has fingered some of the biggest names in American sports. Do you feel vindicated? A little, although it's not a situation from which I get a huge amount of satisfaction. I think for the United States, the Tokyo and Athens investigations have been like the first Johnson affair for Canada.

Do you see a connection between the investigation and the dismal performance of sprinters Marion Jones and Tim Montgomery at the U.S. Olympic trials? It's hard to figure. The world record holder [Montgomery] runs practically dead last! Maybe... well, I won't speculate.

Because we're ahead of the curve on doping, we Canadians tend to think we're fully white. Are we feeling satisfied? Probably I don't think money or oxygen is a reward from the FBI. I'd like to think we're better off, and more satisfied in the issue, than most countries.

Some people say we should let athletes take any drugs they want, since you can't really have a level playing field—the science of doping usually runs ahead of the science of policing. It would be reckless and irresponsible, and it still wouldn't be level because there will always be people out there who are willing to sacrifice everything—and that might be life—for one moment of glory. 

When you were an IOC vice-president, some crack went to give you after the French investigation, like the Salt Lake City bribery investigation.

HAVE FUNDS, WILL TRAVEL

An innovative, private-sector charity is helping athletes get to Athens



ANDREW HALEY has an unusual perspective on sport. Mine to five, the 30-year-old works in the Toronto Blue Jays' ticket sales department, which makes him, by all accounts, a colleague of struggling first-base man Carlos Delgado. In off hours, Haley's great athletic love: A winterer on Canada's *Produce* program who will compete in Athens this summer, he holds the world record in the 100 m butterfly in his class. The similarity between him and Delgado, who's being paid \$519.7 million this season, peaks in a single game. But Haley, who as a child lost a leg to cancer, doesn't want the discrepancy "between him and I, I'm not doing it for money," says Haley, a Nova Scotian now living in Toronto. "I'm doing it because of what's inside me. I want to raise the clock."

You need a good attitude to compete for Canada. That and an employer who's willing to excuse frequent absences for training and competitions, a high tolerance for misadventure and chutzpah, a cheap apartment and an emergency clothing account at the Bank of Mt. and Pa. But all of that's not enough. Delmas hasn't replaced the millions in out-of-pocket funding a decade ago, and the Canadian Olympic Committee is focusing its dollars on the corporations most likely to reward. And since it takes years of training and competing to reach the top of international sport, athletes and their supporters

Haley, a world record holder in the 100-m butterfly, stays afloat thanks to a full-time job

often grow tired of the financial strain. "Canada's athletes tend to quit earlier than in some other countries," says rower Julie Worsell at Saskatoon. "They can't afford to wait until they get to the top."

Which explains the popularity of the Sec Yee in Athletes Fund. Canadian Olympians have always relied on amateur financing, from sports-didn't-ruffin to high school car washes. The Sec Yee Fund, founded seven years ago by Jane Ross, an event planner

THE fund is inundated with applications for financial aid. 'If there wasn't a problem,' Ross says, 'we wouldn't exist.'

curved advice advocate, is a more formal gathering point for those fundraising efforts. A registered charity, it raises cash from individuals, community groups and corporations, and distributes it directly to athletes in need. Which, at the same time, is just about all of them. "If there wasn't a problem, we wouldn't exist," Ross says. "You should see our office—we have shelves stacked with applications for funding."

Ross' pitch to companies and private donors is simple: their contributions will help athletes perform their best. The Orga-

nization will identify who the money went to and how it was spent, so donors can track "their" athlete's progress. The Fund has disbursed more than \$2 million to athletes since 2002. Individual applicants are eligible for \$5,000 to start—not exactly a windfall but enough to pay for extra coaching, travel or physiotherapy. And grants aren't always in cash. Last May, Sealy Canada president Tony Smith donated 60 mattresses so after he learned that one of athletes' main complaints was having lousy beds to sleep on. The biggest financial backer has been Molson, which last winter contributed \$3 million over seven years to the fund. Chief executive Don O'Neill says he made the commitment in part because of how Olympians so often bring the country together. "We admire their dedication," O'Neill says. "They deserve our support."

After the closing ceremonies in Athens, the fund will become the Sec Yee in Toronto Fund focusing on athletes heading to the 2006 Winter Games. Since the fund and the COC are soliciting many of the same companies—both Molson and Sealy are COC sponsors—they will naturally both hands. But this war means little to athletes desperate for cash—even Haley, who's one of the few with both jobs and a corporate sponsor (Spex). Sometimes a cheque from the fund means one last-of-its-kind swapped-out present. "I'm 27 now," says Worsell, who in September will begin working on his Ph.D. in finance at UBC, "and there comes a point with your family when you can't risk for any more."



TRIUMPH OF (THE) WILL

Will Smith's *I, Robot* owes as much to iMac as it does to I. Asimov

SUMMER'S IN FULL SWING, and Hollywood is busy saving the world with a product line of desk superheroes, from *Spider-Man* to *Caranacoon*. The latest prototype doesn't wear tighties, or come from a comic book. He's been spun from a few DNA strands of Isaac Asimov's vintage science fiction. But with a Hercules body, a ridiculous car, and a mysterious trauma in his past, he seems to fit the superhero profile. **1, Robot's** descriptive Del Spooner (Will Smith) is a cop in the year 2035 waging a lonely battle against an evil corporation that's campaigning to put a personal robot in every home. Spooner loses robots,

suspects they're up to no good. He's rugged individualist rebelling against the notion of a world ruled by products. Which is ironic considering that the movie begins with an onslaught of product placement.

As Smith's character awakes from a recurring nightmare, he awakes his 'biff' physics as if it was underwear. We watch him shower, get dressed, and open a box of Black 2004 Cointreau All Star Hotlips. "It's about of beauty," he coos. Then a FedEx robot shows up at his door. But the biggest product placement is Smith himself. Still retaining the body, and the scars, that he developed for *Ali*, he makes an immensely likable action hero, an actor who puts his physicality on the line with desktop charm. Cool, casual and cocky, he's a black antidote to the sexuality of Tom, Brind and Arwen—and to Tobey's *Spider-Man*, that neurotic white guy with the protruding self-esteem.

But *Robot*, a mishmash of sci-fi forecasts and tiny special effects, was *Spider-Man* 2. Filmed in Vancouver, it's set in Chicago, reimagined as Minneapolis on a dried-up Lake Michigan. The mechanical plot, with gloss of *Matrix* and *The Terminator*, concerns robots enigmatically run by a sinister CEO (Canadian Bruce Greenwood). As he launches a new line of personal robots, named in Third Reich lingo, his chief scientist killed. Spooner suspects he's been murdered by a rogue robot named Savoy (voiced with creepy authority by Alan Tudyk). Savoy looks like the other robots—a sleek skeleton clad in transparent flesh with pale blue eyes—but he's more human, and he's found a loophole in the "Three laws of robotics" that protect us from them.

With its self-machine design, *Robot*

owes as much to iMac as it does to I. Asimov. The tale of a robotophobic cop grappling with a Freudian monster offers visions of apocalypse and deconstruction. Along the way, our hero shows out an icy thistle (a robotics theme played by Bridget Moynahan), and hopes to save humanity by having an on-screen motherhood with a small plastic carrier of peace. Salvation is in precision. Loveless with a really corpulent between men and machine, and a murky vision of a robot Christ, *Robot* isn't a success as it thinks it is. But Will Smith is the ultimate self-machine.

Briefly, that brings us to *The Door in the Face*, the kind of literary drama that's supposed to provide grown-ups with a quiet alternative to Hollywood's white-knuckling world.



The fresh, and flexible, action star plays a robotophobic detective looking for a bad Apple

of special effects. Oddly enough, like *Robot*, it's the tale of a man haunted by a tragic car accident. Based on just the third of John Irving's *A Widow for One Year*, it's about a famous children's author, Ted (Jeff Bridges), and his wife, Marion (Kim Cattrall), whose marriage has been shattered by the death of their two sons. Ted hires a teenage assistant for the summer (Jon Porter), who becomes his wife's boy toy while Ted ally consorts with the latest in a string of women he's persuaded to model made for life drawing exercises. As several comedy scenes into tragedy, there's much to love: director '06 Wilma's sensitive direction, *Beverly Hills* sensuality, the water colour touch of Porter's shy performance in the yellow youth-of-and above all Bridges' offhand genius as the shambling ruin of a writer wrapped in the affliction of his own ego. But that ego unloosens the story whole. The female characters are either preposterous or pathetic. And the wistful elements of Irving's narrative drenched with such naive sympathy that, in its own way, *The Door in the Face* feels as unconvincing as *Robot*.



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Tribute | BY BRIAN BETHUNE

BETTY OLIPHANT: A LIFE IN DANCE

"Temperamental, daring," "eccentric" — these words recently Betty Oliphant frequently administered to frustrated dancers. "That's half temper and half mental!" The former Miss O, as students called the National Ballet School's long-time principal — no one ever put "divine" in front of her name — had plenty of temperament of her own. But in the wake of her death last week, a month shy of her 84th birthday, Tennant and the rest of the dance world preferred to remember Oliphant's unparalleled role in making her school one of the world's best. "She was a fabulous teacher," said Colin Macca, who founded the National Ballet in 1960, "and her legacy is that she taught many other people to be very good teachers. The school was her legacy and it has done her proud."

As one associate noted, Oliphant took "her own life experience and tried to feed a way around it in the school." Her autobiography records a hard personal life, including depression and suicide attempts. She had to fight her middle-class British family for ballet lessons, and then, at age 20, found herself — at five foot seven and, at times, 150 lb — far too large for classic dance. When the Second World War was over, "I found myself married, with two children, one of whom had TB of the spine. I had married this Canadian who had been balleted in our house. It came to Canada with him, at which point he ran off. And there I was in Toronto, with two children, without a home."

In a particularly fruitful example of those who can't, Oliphant began teaching everything from keep-fit classes to balletroom cleaning. When the National Opportunity arose, she leapt at it. She cultivated a keen eye for talent with a fearless willingness to battle anyone at the school's interest. Oliphant insisted on high academic as well as artistic achievement, and incorporated psychological counselling into the school's high-pressure atmosphere. But in the end, it was all about reaching the highest possible dance standards, a demand for excellence that shaped her renowned students — Tennant, Kiri Te Kanawa, Derek Augustus, Rex Himmelman and James Kachulis among them. "She was so much more than just a truly great teacher," says Tennant, "she also combined with grace and standards that took us to the greatest heights in dance."





WANT MY 'REAL' ADDRESS?

If you must know, it's 13 Mushers Row. Good luck finding it on the map.

I HAVE NO HOUSE NUMBER or street name. But that doesn't make me homeless—you know what? I do, in fact, have a place to store my stuff and lay my head. I even have a mailing address—a post office box number. And most of all, I have a certain degree of satisfaction in not being part of the status quo.

Two years ago I moved from Kearney, Ont., to Old Crow, Yukon, a community of about 100 beside the Porcupine River above the Arctic Circle. Life 800 km northwest of Whitehorse is different. You can only get to Old Crow by plane and the runway is this.

as are the streets. The lives of the people, though modern in many ways, are still governed by nature's rhythms—salmon fishing in the summer, berry picking in August, and muskrat trapping in the spring.

It's a friendly place where everyone knows everyone else. Ask where somebody lives and the answer will invariably be something along the lines of, "It's in the brown house with the crooked porch, next to my dad."

This system works pretty well—so long as you don't need a "real" address. The first time my partner Kili and I ordered an item online from a computer or supply store, we requested it be sent via courier. No problem, they said in a click of the mouse—or so we thought. The phone call confirming our order was when things began to fall apart.

"We see that you have a box number listed," stated a nice young woman. "We'll need a street name and house number to process your order."

"We don't have street names here," replied Kili. "It's a fly-in community. The lady at the post office will know who we are."

"You don't have street names?" the nice young representative repeated. "What do you mean? You have streets, don't you?" "No, where streets, but none of them are named," I explained. "It's a help, we live on the street near the landing strip."

"No street names, right," said the representative woman. "Well, what about a house number?"

"We have one but I'm not sure what it is. Hang on, my partner will check," Kili said.

"OK, it's 999, but that doesn't mean" because we pick our mail up at the post office every day. The house numbers are pretty random, my neighbour's is 500 something."

"Well, I need some sort of real address," the representative said. "The courier doesn't deliver without an address."

By this point, I had overheard enough. "Tell her it's not us if the courier guy is going to show up at our door," I said through gritted teeth. "The package will make it to Whitehorse and then it will sit in the town

I now live in the Northwest Territories, beside Bradford Lake, about 120 km from Yellowknife. Here, I don't even have a house number—and there's no street. It's simply in the middle of nowhere (although there would be nowhere). My new home is a 4-by-5-m plywood-and-synthetic frame that actually belongs to my employer, a wilderness lodge whose guests can fish in summer and watch the northern lights in winter. I share this rustic dwelling with a dilapidated, "unstable" wood stove and 22 dogs. I am not a part of the human race that runs off to work each morning on wide-clogged highways, grabs power lunches or power naps, takes yoga or works out in the gym. My days are governed by the seasons and are filled with work that makes me happy and healthy.

Still, every once in a while I can feel myself slipping through some bureaucratic crack. That's where I found myself when it came time to fill out the paperwork to change my health card. Everything was fine until I hit the statement that indicated a box number would not be accepted.

But my address is a box number. So in the chaos of making do, that's what I filled in on the form. I was accepted to write 13 Mushers Row, but I didn't want to start off the wrong foot with a free-

lens individual in the memory of health and social services who could make this either a simple process—or my life a living hell.

Still, just to be sure, I had my employer write a letter, on company paper, stating why my address is a box number and confirming that I am a real, honest-to-goodness, non-paying citizen of the Northwest Territories.

Two and four weeks ago I'm still waiting. The phone comes in once a week with mail—maybe there will be a brand new health card on it for me.

Peggy Billingsley lives near Bradford Lake, N.W.T. To connect, overtoyou@loulou.ca.

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BACKTALK

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Metallica wants you—to see them get all teary-eyed

Herfield, Ulrick and Marmont (with new guy Robert Trujillo) aren't so tough

The gripping new documentary *Metallica: Some Kind of Monster* leaves you a bit confused. On the one hand you want to give vocalists James Hetfield a hug, and help him work through his demons. At the same time, you feel compelled to smash the spoiled heavy-metalist, and his bandmates, upside the head and tell them to get over themselves.

The wealth of footage—culled from more than two years with the band's entourage, predictable shots of binge partying and bawdy graphics are replaced with the bandmates at their most vulnerable. This is espe-

cially true during sessions with their shrink—who charges \$40,000 a month for his services—as Herfield, drummer Lars Ulrich and guitarist Kirk Hammett try to sort out their emotional problems. "There were times we wanted to just go out in the hallway and not be part of it," says Bruce Dickinson, who co-directed the documentary with Joe Berlinger. "But as filmmakers you live for those moments." Like, for instance, seeing the trio of tough guys regularly fight back tears. Further proof that your parents were right—heavy metal music really can mess with your head.

JOHN INTINI

BUZZ LIST



Alicia Keys
Alicia Keys vs. The 50-centers. We're finally sure who's more powerful, and it's Alicia.



Robert Trujillo
The critically acclaimed Metallica cop show—which convinced the band that Bruce Dickinson is the most talented new kid on the block—is now an DVD.



Betty White
White shoe dancers lose a legend. Betty White, but given a \$15-million anonymous gift for the National Ballet School.

METALLICA: SOME KIND OF MONSTER
This is certainly not just a Top



James Hetfield
Tanked all morning and more than a few drinks, reportedly from the married Aussie into a short change job.



Bruce Dickinson
A rough version of the Metallica's new CD went missing last week. Prime suspect—Dicks.



Lars Ulrich
Taken all parties for the record show straight Thor de France title—opponents play for the day he takes up golf.

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BACKLASH



Wellness | The luxurious layover

Your flight's been delayed—again. You've started reading the newspaper, you're yawning and you've still got three hours to kill. Airports can be miserable places, which is why the wellness industry has devised a lucrative solution: the airport spa. In Toronto's York City Centre to Montreal, airport spas cater to the growing, and rich, and the local beyond-belief. Here's a sampling of their services, designed to address travellers' most common complaints.

FOR IT'LL SOON That groggy, watery feeling is often attributed to dehydration. The proposed cure? Breathing really expensive filtered air. At the Grand Express spa at the Calgary International Airport, \$18 will buy you rental activity for 15 minutes in its state-of-the-art oxygen lounge.

FOR CHARMED LIVES If a whiplash took

doesn't kick-start your circulation, the "Altitude Anti-Swelling Leg Massage" (\$30) at the Vancouver International Airport's Absolute Spa is billed as an effective antidote to confined coach seating.

FOR THE STRESSED OUT Idleness at Newark International Airport in New Jersey, offers a package called "The Wacky Traveler" (\$199), which includes a heated foot rub, a de-stressing mouth spray and "napping privileges."

FOR SOME, ACHING MUSCLES The Massage Bar—at airports in Seattle, Newark, Nashville and Washington—offers its so-called massage service in "hugle shots" (15 minutes) or "double shots" (30 minutes). If this doesn't lift your spirits, you could always try a shot of something stronger.

LAURIE GEORGE

SALES The Hungry found that more corporate customers at their top pockets or on their belts risk cutting across coast by nearly 30 per cent.

Gaming | Pac-Man never lost his cool

Until recently, tracking down classic video games required a lot of patience or enough money to engage in fancy bidding wars. But nowadays like Pac-Man and Donkey Kong—despite pixel graphics and 16-bit sound tracks—are back in fashion and we're available. "People have gone back to the roots of gaming and are celebrating its culture," says Nintendo Canada's Mario-Paul Thompson. The



All classic Nintendo games back, including a little Nintendo Game Boy.

company recently launched a Game Boy (\$129.99) that resembles the 19-year-old original Nintendo system, from the small first Super Mario Bros. Play-and-play physics (\$25.99) that connect directly to your television are now in stores and come with built-in disc drives from Atari, Activision and Memo, including Atari's Rally-X and Pitfall. It's enough to make even a Game Boy feel old.

DENISE CHIZZOT

Money's Worth | Portable DVD Players

Home theatre, to go

"When are we going to become there?" Being at the cottage is always such an ordeal, but getting there never is—especially if you have kids. No wonder portable DVD players are a perennial hit this year. Future Shop, for one, has seen sales soar from 100,000 units to 250,000 units of all DVD players purchased. While our readers saw 60 per cent of all DVD players or nearly 400 models, a promotional shop-down player or will drive the value price up \$2,000 or more. Portables are cheaper—and more convenient. Costing as little as \$199, they are the size of a handkerchief and can be hooked from the car before they plug into the cigarette lighter to the campsite or the city bus. You can take one on the plane or plug it into the cottage TV for rainy days. We looked at four new models to find the best travelling companion.

MICHAEL SINGER



THE WINNER Smart investment for a family on the move, the Quikio 604 connects to a TV and has all the features of regular DVD players, though it's a little more expensive. It's a drop-down set-up gives best viewing.

OUR PICK Another excellent portable DVD player, the Quikio 604 is perfect for family travel. It's the best value, with the best price.



What's in Store

Pass the popcorn. Sony's digital projector, the Quikio 604, costs a lot less than LCD technology to produce an image equal to that of a movie theatre. But you'll have to charge your friends admission. It starts at \$429.00. Details in August.

PANASONIC L300, \$199	SAMSUNG L300, \$209	TOSHIBA SD-7200, \$199.95	ALCANTARA VERTIGO, \$209

FIRST IMPRESSION

Sony's L300 is a little bigger than the others, but it's a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

With the L300, you'll find a standard-looking LCD screen, but the large 10-inch screen is a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

A sleek silver unit with a wide-screen LCD display, Sony's L300 is a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

Comes in a little bag, like a velvet case, and has a large LCD screen. It's a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

BEST FEATURES

The screen is adjustable, from a desktop to a flip screen to a tablet screen. It's a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

With the L300, you'll find a standard-looking LCD screen, but the large 10-inch screen is a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

At almost sure, the L300 is a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

While for the L300, you'll find a standard-looking LCD screen, but the large 10-inch screen is a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

PERFORMANCE

When it comes to picture quality, the L300 is a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

Simple to use, but picture is not as good as the L300. It's a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

With the L300, you'll find a standard-looking LCD screen, but the large 10-inch screen is a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

Display is a little better, but the L300 is a little more comfortable to hold. It's small, could fit into a medium-sized purse.

RATING

★★★

★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★★

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SPACE PENGUINS AND MORE

Jaymie Matthews is looking at the stars—and learning incredible things

THE DOOR to Jaymie Matthews' office at the University of British Columbia is covered by a folder of papers and newspaper clippings. The latest article often disturbing news: "Hole in ozone layer is sucking world's penguins into space, say scientists."

Matthews, 46, is quick to reassure me that the clipping—complete with a photo of bewildered-looking penguins spiralling into the sky—was from the ribald *Weekly World News*, and therefore perhaps not entirely reliable.

Matthews is an astrophysicist. He's been staring into the night sky since he was 8,

using an ever-improving selection of telescopes. He hasn't found any penguins up there yet, but what he has found will sound and sense.

Matthews is the mission scientist for MOST, a tiny space telescope that's been orbiting the Earth, peering at distant stars, for just over a year. It's the first space telescope ever launched by Canada, and the country's first scientific research satellite of any kind in 30 years.

It's tiny—65cm by 65 cm by 30 cm, about the size of a suitcase. It's cheap: the whole project from conception to launch to



collection of data, was paid for by \$90 million from the Canadian Space Agency. Comparable European and American space projects cost dozens of times more. And MOST is already upspringing long-held suspicions about how the sun's neighbor stars work.

MOST, incidentally, stands for Micrometeoroids and Oscillations of Stars. Matthews, while I'm not, stands for a good time. In his talents as a popularizer and his prowess at the whisky bar and on the dance floor have made him a bit of a rock star in the thirty-populated field of glamorous Canadian astrophysicists. It may have last month at Moses Zimmern's IdeaCity conference, where at one point Matthews could be found at the front of the audience, at his boozier shows, with CBC Radio host Scott/Yin Lee.

But I digress. "Micrometeoroids" refers to the tiny variations in a star's light output. This natural "twinkling" is hundreds of

times more subtle than the twinkling we see, which is caused by interference from the Earth's atmosphere. To see that minute twinkling, you have to find a way to see past the atmosphere.

One way would be to have six or eight ground-based reflecting telescopes dotting the Earth's surface, each with a mirror far bigger than any now in use, all staring simultaneously at the same star for a month or more. What a mess. And it would cost something like \$1 billion.

The more elegant way, of course, is to loft a smaller telescope out of the Earth's atmosphere, into space. That's what Matthews and his international research team did with MOST. Up there, the wee satellite's 15-cm mirror can "take out" stars light years away by staring at them, almost without interruption, for months at a time.

How sensitive is MOST? It can detect variations in light intensity of one part per

million. What's that mean? Well. If you look at a street lamp a kilometre away, and then move your eye half a millimetre closer—about the width of an eyelash—the lamp will appear one part per million brighter. If you were looking at the Empire State Building at night and somebody loved a window shade in one of its windows, it'd be about one part per million dimmer.

And if that sounds cool, wait until you hear how MOST got into space. Last summer, Matthews was one of nine clients to buy seats on a Russian launch vehicle that took off from Plesetsk, Russia. It used to be known by a more ominous, the SS-19 Silex, when it was a Soviet intercontinental ballistic missile whose third stage was designed to split as it fell into a half-dozen nuclear warheads, spreading death across hundreds of kilometres. The same technology worked nicely for peace, inserting MOST and several other payloads into distant orbits.

Since then, MOST has stared for weeks at a time at a succession of stars, including Procyon, one of the most studied stars in the night sky. Procyon yielded a surprise: instead of the pulsations predicted by 20 years of previous science, MOST found barely any variation at all.

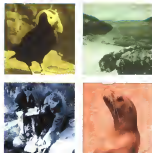
In science, this sort of "null result" is actually pretty exciting, because it means 20 years of science goes flying out the window. "That's far more significant than the results we expected," Matthews told me.

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope gets all the press, but Matthews' humble space telescope is off to a fine start. MOST should keep beaming data to ground stations in Vancouver, Toronto and Vienna for years to come. And after that? Matthews and his colleagues have the idea for another satellite that would tell us if an asteroid ever came flying past the sun straight at the Earth. In the meantime, if MOST spots any space penguins, I'll let you know. □

To comment, e-mail paul.wells@utoronto.ca. Read Paul Wells's weblog, "Wells's World," at www.mediabias.ca/paulwells.

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